

THURSDAY

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NWmissourian.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fight leads to Maryville man's death

By Dominic Genetti,
Kenny Larabee
*Community News Editor,
Chief Reporter*



Steven Sapp

One man is dead and another is back in custody.

Steven A. Leach died after suffering wounds from a pocketknife following a fight with Steven T. Sapp, March 30 in Pickering, Mo.

The fight occurred in the driveway of Leach's relative.

Sapp, 29, of Tarkio, Mo., has been charged with second-degree murder and is being held at the Nodaway County Jail on \$250,000 bond.

Leach, 40, of Maryville, left the scene in his pickup truck, but passed out from excessive blood loss after driving two blocks, Nodaway County Sheriff Ben Espy said.

Leach was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Maryville where he was pronounced dead.

A few hours later, Sapp was arrested at his parents' home at 812 Walnut St. in Tarkio.

Leach arrived at his mother-in-law's home shortly after 10 p.m. Sunday night and encountered Sapp in the driveway, Espy said.

Leach's wife, Ruschia "Corky," was present at the time of the altercation, but Espy said no charges will be filed against her.

Leach's 5-year-old daughter, Harley, was in the truck at the time of the accident, but she did not sustain any injuries, according to Missouri Highway Patrol crash reports.

Leach lived in Hopkins with his family before

See MURDER on A8

NORTHWEST FOUNDATION

New Alumni Center plans move ahead

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

(This is the first of a two-part series on the new Northwest Alumni Center.)

Growth requires improvement.

The Northwest Foundation recently approved drawings to move to the construction phase of the new Alumni Center.

In the past few years, the foundation experienced growth. This project will improve alumni facilities, as well as provide further room for growth, Alumni Relations Director Steve Sutton said.

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The Foundation board has approved \$4.9 million dollars for the project. Donor money will not be used; instead the money will come from issued bonds, Sutton said.

The proposed center will be built on the corner of College and North Munn avenues. Houses that are currently located at 714, 718 and 720 College Ave. and the one located at 325 N. Munn Ave. will be removed in order to accommodate the center. These properties are owned by the foundation.

The center will be two stories. Alumni Relations will be located on the first floor of the building with office space and conference rooms, Sutton said. The second floor is for development offices also

See CENTER on A8

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Car accident kills student

Northwest student Jeremy L. Harris, 20, died Saturday, March 31, from injuries sustained in a car accident.

Harris was driving northbound on U.S. 169 when he either misjudged the turn to go eastbound the Missouri 152 ramp or lost control, according to the Kansas City Star.

He vehicle went off the roadway, crossed an open area and went off an embankment, according to the Star.

Funeral services for Harris will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, at the Sheffield Family Life Center in Kansas City.



Jeremy L. Harris

MISSOURI STATE ARBORETUM

University calls on community to replant trees

By Sara Kendall
Missourian Reporter

Several new trees will be planted in the soil and in the hearts of everyone affected by the ice storm of late 2007.

Project plant-a-tree will continue the recovery process of the Northwest Arboretum. It will take place at 2 p.m., Friday, April 11.

Northwest serves as the Missouri State Arboretum.

Project plant-a-tree will start at the Bell Tower with a tree planting by Northwest President Dean Hubbard to commemorate all those who have helped with the cleanup.

Adam Stone, a campus arborist will demonstrate how to plant a tree. All vol-

unteers will be split into several groups and each group will be responsible for planting new trees in a specific area of campus.

A severe ice storm destroyed several trees on the Northwest campus.

As a result of the storm, 79 trees had to be completely removed and another 340 trees were pruned in hopes of giving the trees the best chance of survival, said Lezlee Johnson, associate director of Environmental Services and director of the State Arboretum.

"We wanted to save trees that have been around for 50 or 60 years," she said.

The arboretum has become a focal point of beauty in the Maryville area. The destruction of so many trees brought

the community together to restore the arboretum, Johnson said.

Several organizations and individuals on campus and in the community have come together in the effort to replace the damaged trees on campus, Johnson said. More than 200 new trees have been purchased through donations by Greek organizations, alumni and other organizations, she said.

It is not only important to replace lost trees, it is also important to maintain the variety of species of trees on campus. Diversity of species promotes growth and stability, Johnson said.

Most trees that will be planted in the coming year are species the arboretum

How to Help?

79 trees were destroyed in the ice storm.

340 trees were pruned in hopes of giving the trees the best chance of survival.

200 new trees have been purchased for planting.

100 volunteers have already signed up.

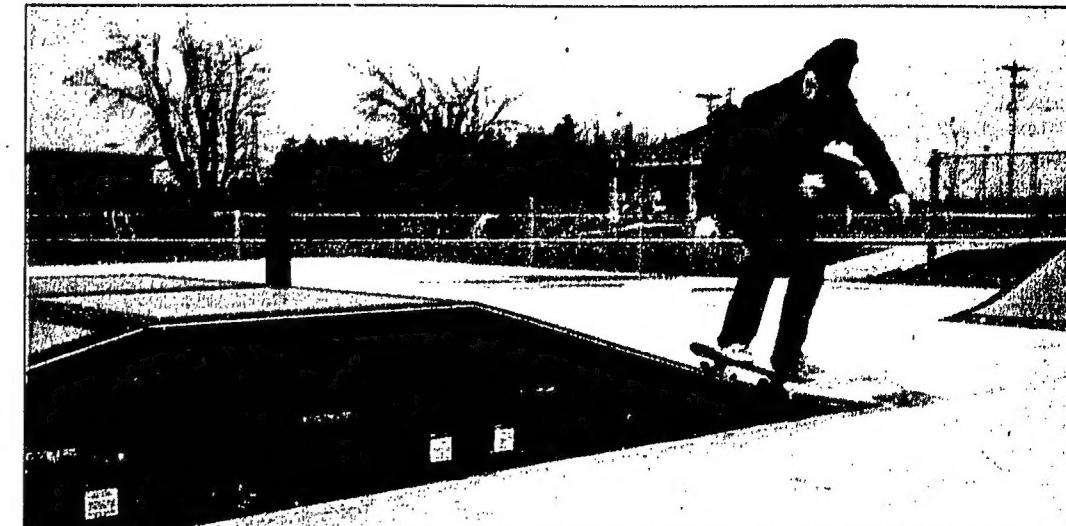
100 more will be needed to make the project successful.

250 will receive a T-shirt for their contribution to the project.

The project will begin at 2 p.m., Friday, April 11. To volunteer contact Volunteer Services Director Amy Nally at 562-1954.

See TREE on A8

COMMUNITY FEATURE



Beyond the street



LUCAS LARSON, A Northwest graduate, grinds along the side of the ramp at the new skate park.

photos by matt terwilliger | missourian photographer

Not just a hobby, skateboarding emerges as true sport

By Christopher Woodland
Missourian Reporter

He rolled across the concrete surface of the Maryville skatepark on his new, black skateboard.

He wore a new shiny black helmet, black and blue elbow and knee pads and a neon green Nixa T-shirt.

"Look Mom, I'm doing it," 4-year-old Elijah Mayfield said.

Mayfield began skating just a couple weeks ago and illustrates the shift in the general perception of skateboarding over the past few years.

The kids in his father Wes's youth group at the First Baptist Church introduced Elijah to skateboarding, his mother Sara Mayfield, 26, said.

"He always sees the kids on skates and thinks that they are the coolest thing in the world," Sara said. "All the kids he watches are good kids and do a lot of things with the church."

Sara sees nothing wrong with her 4-year-old already skateboarding as long as he's careful.

"I definitely wouldn't let him do it without pads," Sara said. "I don't know what I will think when he's good enough and doesn't wear them."

Skateboarding hasn't always been looked upon in a favorable way. It evolved from something viewed as a hobby to having special televised events on ESPN and an event in the X Games. It even impacted the

way people dress. Skating companies' hats, shirts and shoes like Volcom, Hurley and DC are worn even by non-skaters.

"In eighth grade it was assumed that everyone (that skated) just got high all the time, and now there's an advertising impact," Northwest senior Matt Terwilliger said. "A lot of companies just make skateboarding clothes for people who don't skate. There are shows like 'Rob and Big' and people try to make careers out of it. People realize that there's talent there, and not just punks."

Terwilliger began skating in eighth grade, not because he watched a show on MTV about it, or played one of the several Tony Hawk video games. Like Elijah, friends introduced Terwilliger to the sport, and he developed a raw love for the hobby.

"The sounds," Terwilliger said. "I went to a skate park with some friends and the sound of the board going across the rails, and the wheels hitting the ground was just awesome."

Maybe the perception hasn't changed as much as the actual skaters and their parents.

While skaters like Terwilliger learned about skating from their friends, or television, a new generation of skaters find out about skating at younger ages just like Elijah Mayfield.

Unlike Elijah though, who learned about skating from other kids, some are taught to skate at a very young age by their skater parents.

"It progressed a lot now, it's a sport now. It used to be skate on people's poles and piss them off. Since I've been skating, it was rebellion, now it's an art form,"

Mya Smyles, skater

See SKATE on A8

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See TREE on A8

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Series comes to a close with sculptor

Sculptor Gail Simpson will have an exhibit in the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building first floor gallery.

The exhibit is open and runs through Friday, April 25.

Free food, music highlight next week's block party

The Residence Hall Association will host a Block Party from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at the Bell Tower.

There will giant inflatables, prizes, free food and band Cohesion will play at 8 p.m.

For more information e-mail RHA@nwmissouri.edu.

Radio station hosts rock band contest

X106 will hold a rock band competition 7:30 to 10 p.m., Saturday, April 12, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

The winner will receive an Xbox 360 and Rock Band. Applications can be picked up at any Residential Hall.

For more information, contact 562-1162.

Reception planned for retiring faculty

A reception for those who are retiring will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursday, April 10, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Those being honored are Deborah Clark, Richard Frucht, Suzanne Frucht, Michael Graham, Patricia Lucido and Francis Shipley.

Steppers plan to host dance show

The Bearcat Steppers will hold a variety dance show at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 10, in Bearcat Arena.

Tickets are \$5 for and \$3 for students and children.

They will perform a variety of dances and there will be guest performers.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

A break from the ordinary



THE ALTERNATIVE SPRING break group poses in front of Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla., where volunteers spent their spring break assisting children with life-threatening illnesses.

CAMPUS

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Missourian wins award in New York

By Destinee Biesemeyer
Missourian Reporter

A few weeks ago, Northwest Student Publications, along with 340 other universities from around the country, traveled to New York City for the College Media Advisors Convention.

Here, the Northwest Missourian won the Apple Award for non-daily broadcast newspaper.

"This is, in my opinion, even bigger than a Pacemaker (equivalent to collegiate Pulitzer) because there is only one winner and the Missourian won this. I think this is the biggest honor the Missourian has ever received," Student Publications Director Laura Widmer said.

The Apple Award was recently renamed the David L. Adams Apple Award, after a friend of Widmer's suddenly died.

"To get the first one named after him was important to me," Widmer said.

Two issues were chosen and judged by editors from the New York Times.

Editor in Chief Kristine Hotop chose the Jan. 17 and Jan. 31 issues, because community news, university news, Vibe and sports sections were put together well.

Since winning the award, there have been several requests for Northwest to send copies of their newspaper to other colleges to be compared with other collegiate publications.

"We have set a standard that other people are trying to achieve and that is a great feeling," Widmer said. "We are a point of comparison and if they can do as well as us that is a motivation for everyone."

The Missourian was up against 30 year-old boy," Stensland said. "He changed how I feel about life. He is very sick, and he could possibly pass away any time soon. But he kept a smile on his face for the most part."

While at the Give Kids the World Village, some kids did not look sick, Stensland said.

"He was acting like a typical 7-year-old boy," Stensland said. "But I know deep down he knows he is sick and he won't be able to live a normal life like his brother."

While participating in ASB, Stensland began to appreciate her life more.

"I feel honored to be healthy and don't have the thought of one of these days I just might pass away and can't fight my sickness," Stensland said. "I think ASB is one of the best experiences anybody can take part in. It is a lot of work, but it changed me as a person in the outcome,"

She also got involved with ASB this year because she wanted the experience of working with children.

"I am going to be working with children when I am older and I really thought this would be a great way to get involved with the children," Smith said. "I also got involved because I wanted to help children smile with fun. They deserved it more than anyone."

Student Trudy Stensland has been involved with ASB since last year, when the program sent students to Miami to build homes for the Habitat for Humanity-Collegiate Challenge.

"Last year, I got to meet one of the families that had moved into one of the houses we were working on,"

"Alternative Spring Break is important, because it shows that people of all ages can come together to do something wonderful for someone else instead of themselves,"

Heather Smith, student

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MY VIEW

Time to protest the protesters



Anyone walking around on campus on Tuesday probably noticed the man holding a large sign bearing the image of an aborted fetus.

The intent was clear—to protest the practice of abortion—but the way he chose to convey his message raises a question: When does protest become counterproductive? There is a fine line between speaking out for a cause and offending the public.

The abortion protester on campus crossed that line, and in doing so, he drew attention away from the real message and turned it into a freak show.

To be clear, this column is not an abortion protest, it's a protest protest.

Using extreme and offensive measures to fight for a cause ultimately does not help that cause. Disagree with "Don't Ask Don't Tell" in the military? Don't protest military funerals.

If your conviction for a cause is so great that you'll exploit and disrespect people to make a point, you are probably not the right person to send that message. There are ways to shed light on an issue that won't leave the general public disgusted, confused and offended.

We concede that the protester on our campus had, at a basic level, good intentions.

After all, abortion is barbaric and controversial and certainly not to be compared with a mole removal. But regardless of your feeling on the issue, from its medical implications to a woman's right to choose, we think it's clear that everyone has a right to an opinion, but nobody has a right to exploit innocent people and upset the general public.

Have opinions? Want them heard?

The Northwest Missourian opinion page is looking for students and community members interested in being guest columnists or editorial writers for the spring trimester.

So, if you're a political animal, a news fanatic or just need to get something off your chest, feel free to submit. If you're interested contact us by calling us in the newsroom at 660-562-1224 or e-mail us at northwestmissourian@hotmail.com.

MY VIEW

Staffer: There are only 24 hours in a day, time to cut some slack



Thank God for spring break. After months of studying, taking tests and putting out stories for newspapers, a week-long break may be just enough to get me through April. I guess I'll find out because now the heavy loads hit.

Before I left, I watched a video titled "A Vision of Students Today" on YouTube.com. The piece was created by Michael Wesch and about 200 Kansas State students dealing with issues such as workload and debt that college students face today. While K-State is much larger than Northwest, much of it was still applicable to students here in Maryville. If you haven't seen it, you should go to YouTube.com and check it out.

I thought of the video because as



MY VIEW

Second Amendment remains a topic of debate



The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has crossed paths with the Supreme Court once again, the first time since 1939.

Before I dive any further into this, I must say what the Second Amendment states.

According to the Constitution, the Second Amendment is defined as "a well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Does this amendment give explicit rights to individuals to bear arms, or does it instead give the right to the collective whole, which is the militia (the National Guard) in this sense?

Personally, I believe that an individual should have the right to own a

definitely an issue.

I also believe that the right of an individual to bear arms was taken as common law, which is not written down in constitutions or legal documents, but instead is universally believed and is a present active precedent.

It would in turn be left up to the states to determine whether or not it is appropriate or necessary for an individual to own or carry a firearm. And if allowed, to what extent that law should be regulated would in turn be determined by the country and citizens of that state.

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When the Constitution was written, and the first 10 amendments ratified, I believe that an individual's right to possess a firearm wasn't really an issue. However, I do believe that the states' right to have an armed militia was most definitely an issue.

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When the Constitution was written, and the first 10 amendments ratified, I believe that an individual's right to possess a firearm wasn't really an issue. However, I do believe that the states' right to have an armed militia was most definitely an issue.

I also believe that the right of an individual to bear arms was taken as common law, which is not written down in constitutions or legal documents, but instead is universally believed and is a present active precedent.

It would in turn be left up to the states to determine whether or not it is appropriate or necessary for an individual to own or carry a firearm. And if allowed, to what extent that law should be regulated would in turn be determined by the country and citizens of that state.

If this amendment give explicit

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I understand that tests and papers are essential for evaluating the progress that students are making in classes. It wouldn't be a very efficient just to use the honor system.

My problem though: How do I find time for all of this stuff?

Most weeks I have multiple assignments in class, sometimes a test, sometimes multiple tests, sometimes an essay. I also have to write stories for the newspaper you

now hold in your hand. If you think that pays for bills, think again. A sixth grader makes more money than the local paper than I do writing for this one.

On top of school, I still have to put a roof over my head and a roof over my head. I really don't want to get any further in debt than the house.

My advisers say that I also need to branch out, network and learn what can make me more desirable to potential employers.

Not only that, but studies show that we, as a country, are overweight, so I also have to make time to exercise. Dude, if I could make time, do you think I would be in college? I certainly wouldn't make time for exercising. I would make it to play video games.

I cannot remember the last day that I went without having to worry about a story, a test, an assignment,

researching, doing laundry, washing dishes, exercising, writing a term paper or getting somewhere that I don't want to be. I also read somewhere that I'm supposed to get at least eight hours of this thing called sleep.

I think I'm teetering on the brink of insanity. If you see me running through the town square in nothing but my birthday suit, flailing my arms wildly and shouting, "Rubber baby buggy bumpers," at least you'll know why.

Some might argue that all of this is preparing us for the real world. I

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And even if I was, should I feel guilty about a little "me" time?

Maybe I should. After all, there are only 24 hours in a day.

I thought of the video because as

I recently returned from a

a convention for college journalists, the work-

load of a term paper, an article log, planning for

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CITY BRIEFS

Chorale to perform Handel's 'Messiah'

The Nodaway Chorale will present Handel's "Messiah" at 7 p.m. April 27 at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 333 S. Davis in Maryville.

Tickets are available from chorale singers and at the Bookstop, 220 N. Main in Maryville.

Prices are \$10, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for students - with ID and children under 12 are admitted free.

Luncheon, auction to benefit NNHS

The New Nodaway Humane Society will sponsor a benefit luncheon and silent auction from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at the First Christian Church in Maryville to raise funds for the county-wide animal shelter.

Tickets for the event are \$6 each and are available by calling 562-3049 or e-mailing Nwaa007@nwmissouri.edu.

'Cat Walk to benefit Cystic Fibrosis

St. Francis Hospital and Health Services teams up with Northwest Missouri's "Be Well Committee" to host the annual 'Cat Walk.'

The walk is open to all residents in northwest Missouri with proceeds to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The 'Cat Walk' will take place in side Bearcat Arena on the Northwest campus from 9 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The cost to walk is \$2 per person.

In addition to the walk, a health fair will take place.

The health fair will begin at 8 a.m. and will include screenings for bone density, blood pressure and lung function as well as information on cystic fibrosis.

For more information, on the 'Cat Walk' or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, contact Rita Miller at 562-7933.

South Nodaway to hold carnival, auction

There will be fun and items to bid on at South Nodaway High School on Barnard.

South Nodaway is hosting a carnival and silent auction from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, April 13.

Items available to bid on include Northwest goodies, a surprise item from the Kansas City Chiefs, Omaha Royals tickets, Kansas City T-Bones tickets, St. Louis Cardinals tickets, free movies for one year from the Hangar, many restaurant gift certificates and other prizes.

"The Woodruff-Arnold name will disappear from the front of the store, but the Woodruff Arnold construction is still going to be here," Barcus said. "Feel free to pull around behind and come in the back door at the construction office."

LOCAL VOTING

CIP, city council seats to be decided in April 8 vote

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

City Council applicants

Ron Moss — Filed candidate
 Kirk Larson — Write-in candidate
 Pat Cummings — Write-in candidate

lot resurfacing project.

Voters will also choose two new city council members. The two positions will be for three-year terms. Only one person has filed for election, so write-in votes will be accepted.

The Nodaway County Clerk's office will be open from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Saturday, April 5 for absentee voting for the election. A person may also vote by absentee on until 5 p.m. Monday.

BUSINESS CLOSING

Woodruff-Arnold to close

By Michael Clements
Chief Reporter

The construction office does a variety of things including building and remodeling houses, plumbing, garage door installation and service calls to customers, Barcus said.

On the opposite side of the building, Sears has enjoyed success as being the top store in the district since opening last year, Arnold said.

Sears offers large appliances, lawn and garden supplies, tools and electronics.

"Sears has done very extensive research on Maryville and of course has some history," Arnold said. "We had a pretty good idea going into the project what it would do and it's met all those expectations."

The store taking the place next door should open up in June after the remodeling process is completed. Remodeling will start once Woodruff Arnold's closes, Arnold said.

Woodruff has been a name for construction in Maryville since the 1950's, construction manager Kenny Barcus said.

Construction, remodeling and service calls will be the new focus of Woodruff-Arnold, Barcus said.

"The Woodruff-Arnold name will disappear from the front of the store, but the Woodruff Arnold construction is still going to be here," Barcus said. "Feel free to pull around behind and come in the back door at the construction office."

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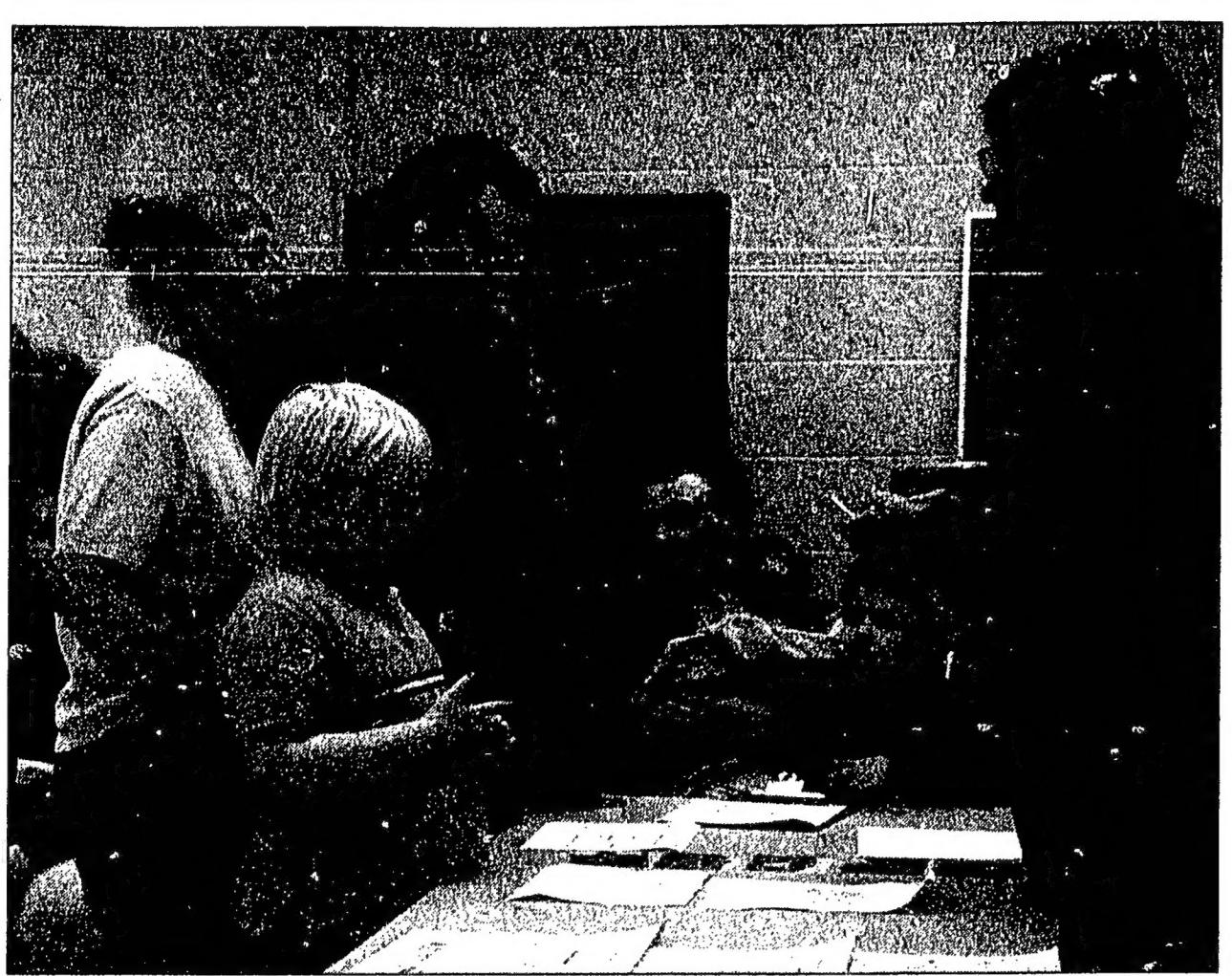
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COMMUNITY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

"I knew it. I just had that feeling that we already had it when we turned the application in"

LaDean Gray



THE NEW FAMILY for Habitat for Humanity looks at the new plans for their house, which was announced Monday evening. The house generally contains about 1,100 square feet of space for the family.

Habitat surprises family with the gift of a home

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

But as Habitat for Humanity of Nodaway County President Jim Wiederholt said, the house is not charity.

"They've (the families) got to have the ability to make the monthly mortgage payments because there is a mortgage payment with this. We like to refer to it as a hand-up, not a hand-out," Wiederholt said. "So the need, the ability to repay and willing to partner with Habitat are the three important things."

Not only does Habitat for Humanity help the Grays purchase a home, but it provides them with an avenue that might otherwise not be possible, LaDean said.

"It is a step up for us and with their help, it's possible, because with our income, if we were to go to the bank, we wouldn't get it," LaDean said. "The plus side is that we're going to pay on a principle and once we're done with that it's done. It's not like we have to pay all this interest rate like other people out there are doing and struggling to do and losing their homes."

This will be the fifth home that Habitat for Humanity of Nodaway County has built, but the first in Maryville, Wiederholt said.

"We're really excited about it. Of course, many members of the Maryville community have gone into other communities in Nodaway County and help construct the previous four houses," Wiederholt said. "We're really excited to bring one more to Maryville that they can actually build in their own town."

One of the requirements for being the recipient of a Habitat home is that the family must help in the construction. That shouldn't be a problem with the Grays, LaDean said; she has experience working with electricity and her husband, Ryan, has experience with roofing. LaDean also said that she hopes someday her family can help someone else.

"Hopefully after we're done with this things will be situated to where we can continue to help them go to the other houses and help out," LaDean said.

Maryville Mayor Chad Jackson was also on hand for the announcement.

The city of Maryville chipped in by waiving the tipping costs accompanying the demolition and cleanup of the previous house, Jackson said.

"I think it's beneficial that they build throughout the county," Jackson said. "They kind of make themselves known throughout, and we're just one of the communities that they're trying to help out so I think that it's a benefit to be able to do what we did as a city."

Some preliminary steps need to be taken to get ready for the construction of the home, such as dirt work and the warming of the weather, Wiederholt said, but added that they will get started as soon as possible.

For the Grays, the chance to own their own home will have a significant impact on their lives, LaDean said.

"It'll be a busy summer ..." LaDean said. "The one good thing is that all these years we've paid to rent and so all the money we've put towards that, if you add that up over the years, it was towards someone else's benefit. Whereas the payments here, they will go to our benefit of owning the home."

AREA FIRE

Clyde Monastery building catches on fire

By Erin Loges
Missourian Reporter

director of communications, said.

The sprinkler system, which also caused water damage, is believed to have saved the building in Clyde, Mo.

The monastery is run by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

No one was injured in the fire that damaged the health care building.

The building is used to house elderly or infirm sisters. All nuns and staff were able to evacuate in time with the help of some guests who were there for Easter services, Communications Director Kelly Baldwin said.

The sprinkler system actually put the fire out before first responders even got there," Kelly Baldwin,

"It has been a challenge moving from a state-of-the-art health

care facility to the older building that has no handicapped access," Baldwin said.

Because the monastery contains many different buildings, several of the sisters in the main monastery did not realize what was going on.

"During morning prayer it was announced that there was a fire and that the elder sisters were being evacuated and moved up to the main monastery," Sister Lynn Marie said.

Community members came to assist in cleaning up, helping move the elderly nuns and providing other support.

"We have been humbled by the kindness we received and know we have been incredibly blessed," Sister Lynn Marie said.

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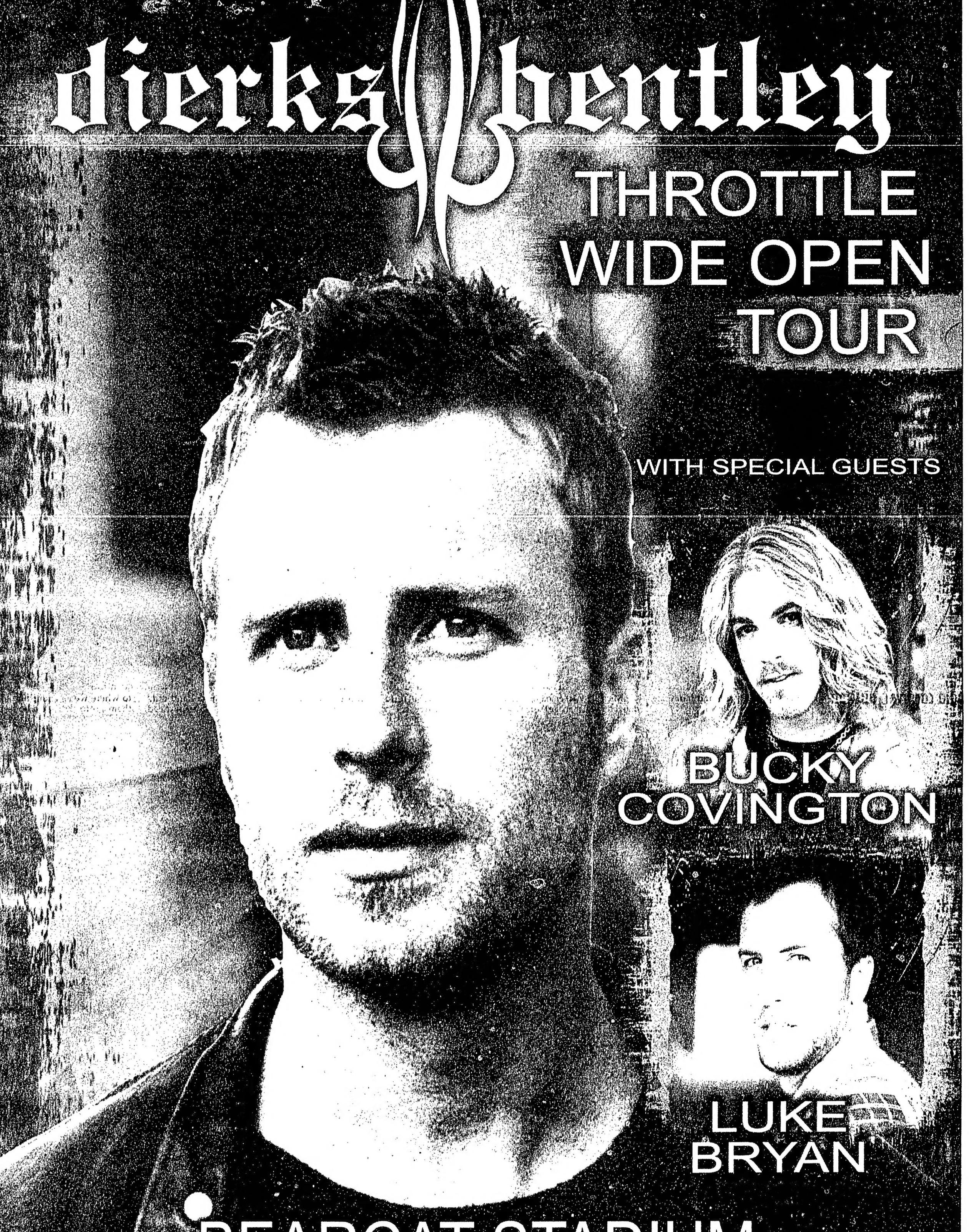
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LUCAS LARSON, A Northwest graduate, took some time to ride the ramps at Maryville's new skate park.

MURDER: Accused murderer released earlier this year from 8-year sentence

Continued from A1

moving to Maryville about a year ago, former neighbor Shirley Irwin said.

"He was a hard worker and he thought the world of his girls," Irwin said.

Steven has four children ages 2, 5, 8 and one in his middle teens, Espy said.

"He loved them to pieces, he was a good dad," Irwin said.

Steven and Ruschia filed for divorce in March 2007, but Ruschia motioned for dismissal on July 6, 2007, and the trial was officially dismissed on July 30, 2007, according to court records.

Ruschia, Steven and Sapp all work for Kawasaki in Maryville, but Espy said Steven and Sapp did not know each other.

Former neighbor Amy Allen worked alongside the Leachs in

the assembly department.

"Always thought he was a nice guy," Allen said. "Our kids always played with each other."

Sapp was conditionally released Jan. 21 from the Western Missouri Correctional Center in Cameron following three prior convictions, spokesman Brian Hauswirth, Missouri Department of Corrections said.

"We had dinner together every Sunday," Gray said.

Memories of sledding and fishing together as kids are still vivid moments of the past. Despite growing apart in their young adult years, Gray recalls Steven as a quiet kid who kept to himself.

News of Steven's death came to Gray from her mother at 1:30 a.m.

"It's a real shock, you just can't believe it happened," Gray said. "I didn't actually comprehend what she was telling me at the time."

Steven's funeral is set for 2 p.m. Friday. He will be buried in Forest City with his mother and grandparents.

Photo by Jeffery D. Johnson | Community Sports Editor

CENTER: Current facility falls short on parking, disability needs, officials say

Continued from A1

autopsy and was brought back to Mound City, Mo., where visitation takes place today.

Sapp was conditionally released Jan. 21 from the Western Missouri Correctional Center in Cameron following three prior convictions, spokesman Brian Hauswirth, Missouri Department of Corrections said.

The current Alumni House is not compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act, there isn't enough parking or enough room to accommodate large gatherings. The electrical

wiring meets housing standards but is not sufficient for office standards, Sutton said. The Alumni House has been in the area for a few years.

"We really moved into the neighborhood in 1980," Covert said.

The current Alumni House will continue to be used for small gatherings. As plans move forward, measures

TREE: Residents asked to get involved

Continued from A1

of the arboretum.

"Folks like to connect to the soil and this will help people do that. Everyone will enjoy the project, not just gardeners or agriculture people," she said.

Everyone is encouraged to volunteer for the plant-a-tree project, Volunteer Services Director Amy Nally said.

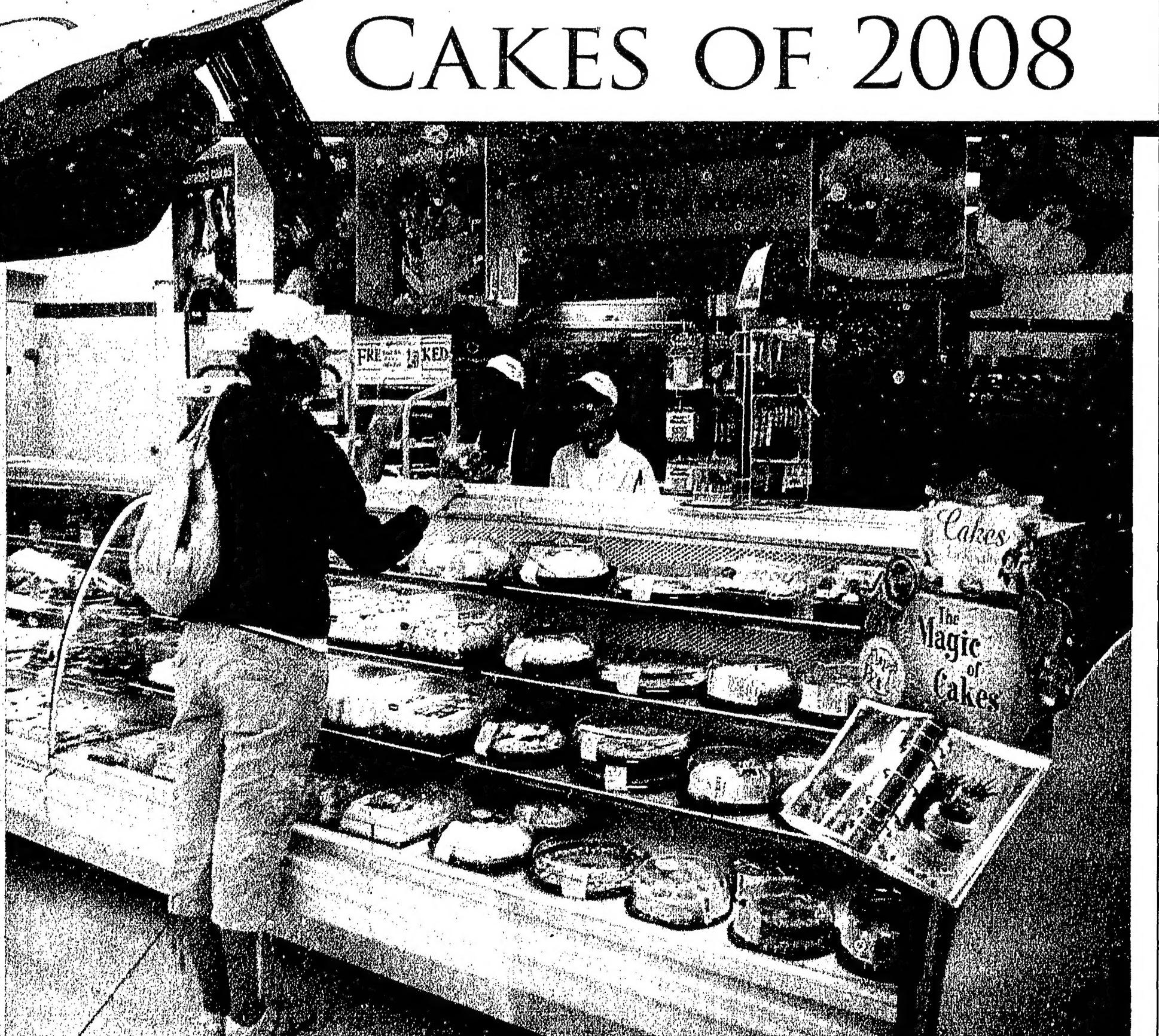
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Photo by Jeffery D. Johnson | Community Sports Editor

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SPORTS

NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

Offseason focus shifts to coach, floor leaders

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Up until last season, Northwest coach Steve Tappmeyer had never let an assistant go.

That changed when Tappmeyer parted ways with second-year assistant coach Jerome Haden mid-season because of professional differences. Because of that conflict, Tappmeyer is saving his vacant assistant coaching job for a member of the family.

By family, he means whoever is named the next assistant coach must have strong ties to Northwest basketball.

"Somebody who hasn't been around it before might be somewhat unorthodox or not the traditional way everyone does it," Tappmeyer said. "I really want somebody that when they come in, I don't have to sell the way we do things. They already believe in it."

Since Northwest's regional semifinal loss to eventual Elite Eight participant Central Oklahoma, Tappmeyer said he has received a lot of interest in the job. The 20-year head coach said he expects to narrow his search list considerably by the end of next week.

While Tappmeyer is searching for an assistant coach, he's also searching for players he can call his floor leaders for next season. The previous leaders - John Hawkins, Matt Withers and Andy Peterson - all graduated.

Tappmeyer said he expects returning starters Hunter Henry, Lance Sullivan, Eddie Gray and Mike Larsen along with Elijah Allen to step into that role for next year as recruits begin to file in.

"We've talked to them about the responsibilities," Tappmeyer said. "They have to be ready to take care of business in the offseason and show the new faces how high we set the bar here."

Tappmeyer said he considers the 2007-2008 season a success despite failing to advance past the second round for a second-straight season. The team did capture the MIAA Tournament Championship, which can be considered a major accomplishment, given the injuries that hit the team at crucial points in the conference season, along with the departure of Haden.

"I think we got to the point where we thought that our finish wasn't so bad. To be honest, I'm really proud of this team," Tappmeyer said. "You always like to win that next game, and if we could've played to our potential that we would've beat Central Oklahoma, but this team battled through the entire season."

NW BASEBALL



NORTHWEST SHORTSTOP RYAN Bledsoe throws out a Missouri Western baserunner in game two's seventh inning. Northwest split with the Griffins last Tuesday.

7-run surge stops Griffons, halts 4-game tumble

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

After getting stymied in game one, the Northwest bats emerged quickly in game two of Tuesday's twin-bill.

Northwest plated seven runs in the second inning and coasted the rest of the way to take game two 10-3 over Missouri Western (10-15, 7-7 MIAA). Griffon third baseman Adam Carlson's two-run double in the sixth propelled his team past the Bearcats 5-3 in game one, however.

Western clung to a 3-2 lead in the top of the sixth, but executed two bunt singles to bring up Carlson. The third baseman blasted a double down the left-field line to bring both runs home.

"It was pretty hard to watch," junior Chris Benham said. "It's always hard to watch bunts come in as runs to win a game. It's something that we just need to work on to make better plays on them."

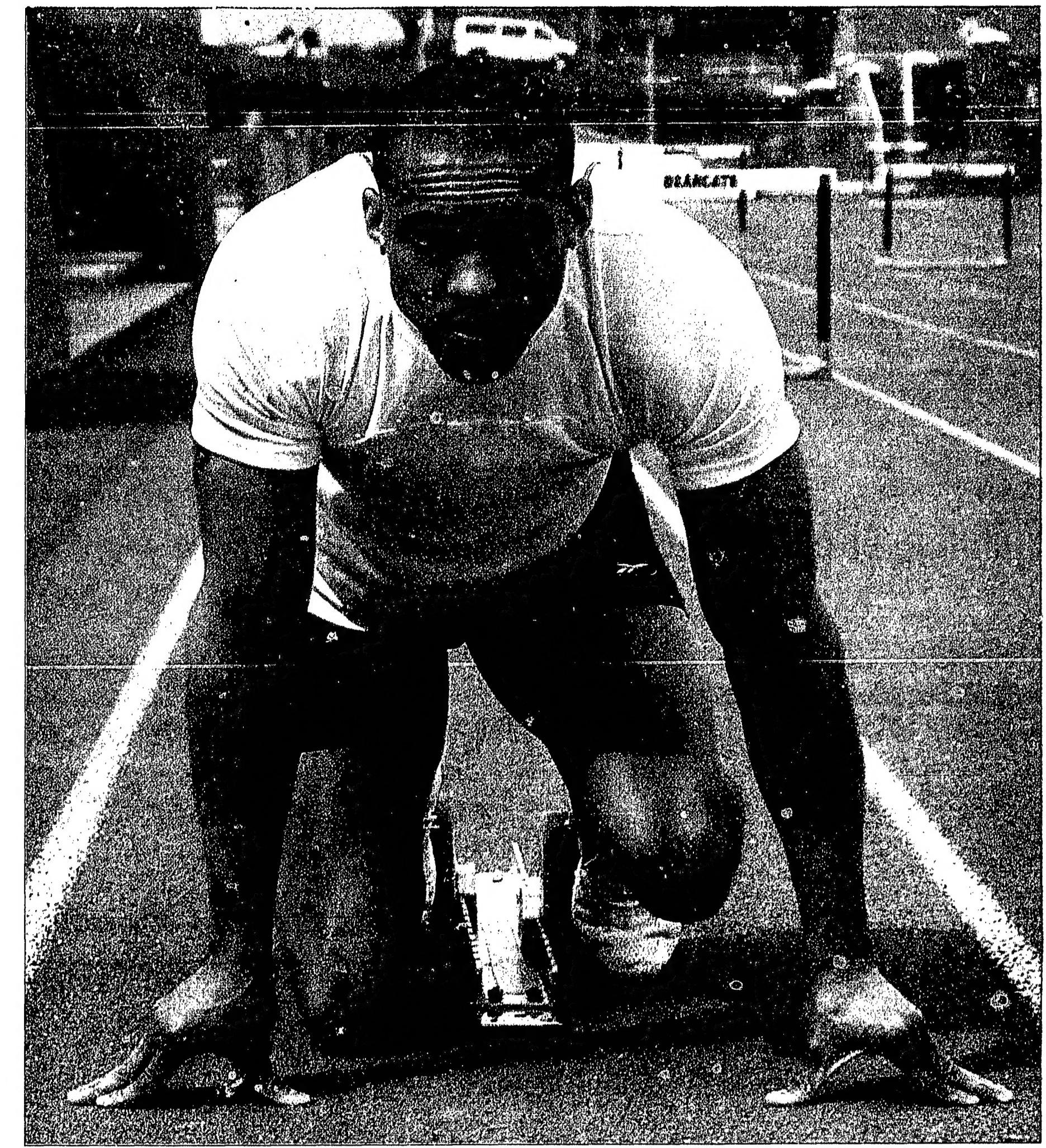
Carroll RB Leicht Britt Westman's home run gave the Cats a 1-0 lead in the second, but a two-out error opened the door to a three-run Griffons fourth inning to give them a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"Those bunts weren't as big as our routine ground ball at shortstop which let in three unearned runs," coach Darin Lee said. "That was kind of the difference in the game."

Freshman Adam Switzer was tagged with the loss,

See BASEBALL on B2

NW TRACK FEATURE



NORTHWEST SPRINTER E.J. Falkner looks to finish his senior year on a high note. After leaving the track team last year to focus on football, Falkner left the football team during the Missouri Southern game. Falkner rejoined the track team during the winter, and qualified for the national meet in his first meet back.

FALKNER'S FINALE

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

E.J. Falkner's life is defined by speed.

On the track, he's a nationally recognized sprinter. On the football field, he was the fastest wideout at Northwest. Even in the hallway, he moves quickly to cram in the hours needed to graduate in May.

The only speed that can rival Falkner's is the quickness with which some are ready to criticize him for leaving the football team toward the end of last season, a criticism Falkner said isn't fair.

"Don't label me as a quote-un-quote quitter," Falkner said. "Because that's not who I am."

This winter, Falkner attempted to prove his commitment by rejoining the track team, which he left more than a year ago to focus on football.

For a man who seems to be so in sync on the track, part of his problem may have been bad timing. He left the track team to focus on football and eventually quit football. He walked out on the football team in the middle of a game for everyone to see, a circumstance he now regrets.

"Most people got the wrong idea about him," Falkner's football and track teammate Kendall Wright said. "They don't really know what went down, but they still judge him."

The final year of Falkner's athletic career is radically different from the beginning. He caught 133 passes for more than 1,600 yards for the Cats, but it was on the track that he truly shined racking up four indoor All-American honors and two outdoor All-American honors.

The track is where Falkner will try to end his athletic career on a high note. But in order to do so, he had to make amends with his teammates.

"I was telling the team I didn't want to be a distraction because of the prior situation with the football team," Falkner said. "I'm here to help. I'm here to give my all to support this team with coach Al retiring this year to get him a conference championship."

Falkner joined the track team during the indoor season, and provisionally qualified for nationals in his first meet back.

He struggled at the national event, but has another shot during the outdoor season.

"I think he's grown up a lot," Alsip said. "He's matured a lot, and he's here for the right reasons. He probably gets along just great now, because he comes to practice and he works out hard. I think it's a good situation for him and for us."

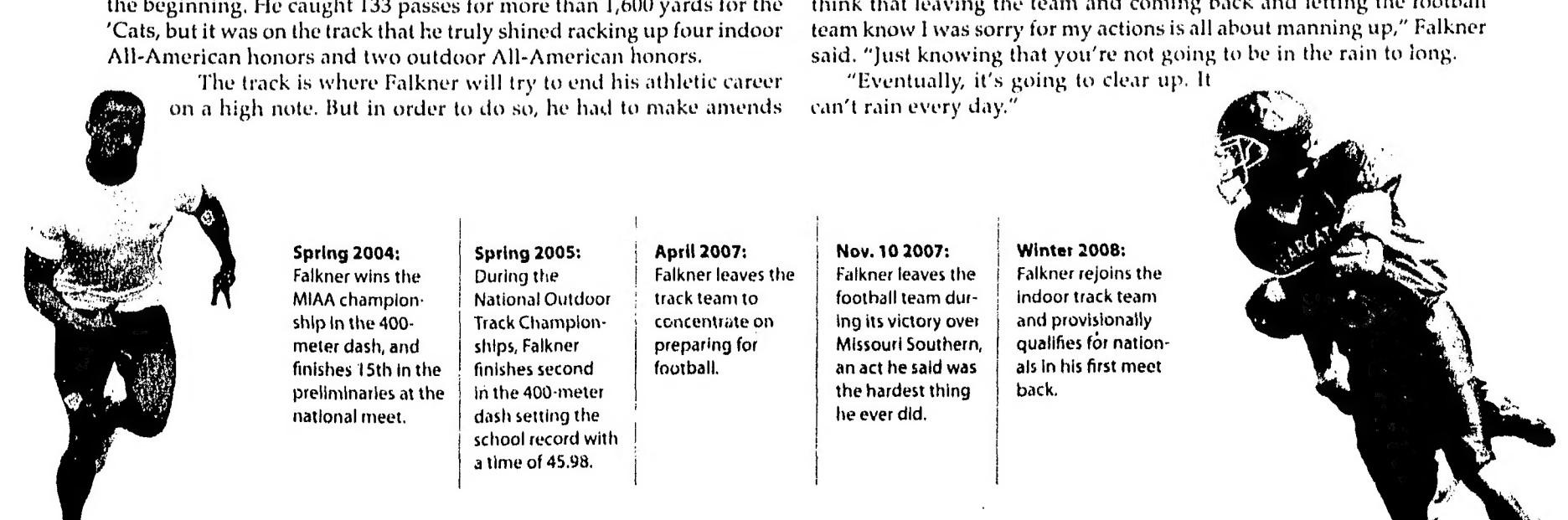
But football isn't out of Falkner's life completely. In fact, he hopes to make it a career after graduation. He participated in Northwest's pro day, an audition of athleticism for NFL scouts. He also has an agent.

After a hectic senior year, Falkner is using words like humility and maturity to describe his experience. He apologized to the football team for the way he left, and is back on good terms with the coaching staff, he said. He's thankful to both Alsip and head football coach Mel Tjeerdsema for giving him the chance to get an education and play the sports he loves.

Though his senior year may have been rougher than his others, Falkner has taken valuable lessons from it.

"You just can't take things for granted nowadays. Honestly, I just think that leaving the team and coming back and letting the football team know I was sorry for my actions is all about manning up," Falkner said. "Just knowing that you're not going to be in the rain to long."

"Eventually, it's going to clear up. It can't rain every day."



Spring 2004: Falkner wins the MIAA championship in the 400-meter dash, and finishes second in the 400-meter dash setting the school record with a time of 45.98.

Spring 2005: During the National Outdoor Track Championships, Falkner finishes second in the 400-meter dash setting the school record with a time of 45.98.

April 2007: Falkner leaves the football team to concentrate on preparing for football.

Nov. 10 2007: Falkner leaves the football team and provisionally qualifies for nationals in his first meet back.

Winter 2008: Falkner rejoins the indoor track team and provisionally qualifies for nationals in his first meet back.

NW TRACK

Wright, Kiss strong at home meet

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

An hour's notice was all Northwest's senior long jumper/hurdler Kendall Wright needed to prepare for his first decathlon.

"We had a couple people not show up... and I called him and said 'hey, you know you always said you were interested in doing the decathlon and thought it would be fun,' and he said 'yeah' so I asked him if he wanted to do it," Northwest coach Richard Alsup said. "He said 'yeah, that'd be fun. When it's start,' and I said 'in one hour.'"

The Northwest men didn't compete as a team last weekend, but will be on display here in Maryville for the Jock's Nitch Northwest Open, the Bearcats' only home meet until conference championships are held here in May.

"It's nice to just have everything come together," Kiss said. "I got a personal record [of] five and seven events."

Sophomore Lindsay Biermann competed in her first heptathlon with Kiss, and did well, women's coach Scott Lorek said. She could have finished even higher if not for a crash in the 100-meter hurdles.

Though he had never competed in many of the events, Wright placed second in the Herschel Neil Decathlon with 5,900 points, Monday Unattached athlete Ryan Koch finished first.

Wright's overall athleticism and expertise in the long jump and hurdles helped him take the lead after the first day of competition. Wright won or tied four of the first five events, but

showed his inexperience in field events on day two.

"If you saw him do anything at all this weekend, some of it wasn't very pretty," Alsup said. "It's just very energetic and very athletic, but the first day he certainly some events he could be very good in."

Unlike the men, the women's track athletes competed in a seven-event heptathlon instead of the 10-event decathlon, and for the second year in a row, a Northwest athlete won the Ashley Nally Heptathlon.

Junior Jennifer Kiss overtook Minnesota State's Kayci Morrihew in the final event to win by 11 points, a small margin in heptathlon competition.

"It's nice to just have everything come together," Kiss said. "I got a personal record [of] five and seven events."

"We have people in Maryville who like track and field, but they don't travel because events are so long," Alsup said. "But here they can come and watch some and go home and come back because it lasts all day."

The Northwest Open begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, at Bearcat Stadium.



NORTHWEST ATHLETE JENNIFER Kiss long jumps during the Ashley Nally Heptathlon last Monday. Kiss won the final events to propel her to the heptathlon title.

NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Steinmeyer going back to the formula

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Northwest women's coach Gene Steinmeyer has always had a formula for winning the MIAA.

"In this league, you have to win with a combination of high school seniors, junior college kids and Division I transfers," Steinmeyer said. "You just have to live with that."

Steinmeyer used that philosophy in 2004 when their transfer-laden team won the MIAA Tournament, and made its first national tournament appearance for just the third time in school history.

After four years, the nine-year head coach has returned to that philosophy after his team won the MIAA Tournament and notched the schools' second tournament win in 24 years.

With six players lost to graduation, including all-scorers Mandi Schumacher and Kelli Nelson, along with

defensive specialist Lauren Williams and transfer Andrea Dill, Steinmeyer has found success on the transfer wing.

Steinmeyer has gained commitments from 6-2 forwards Gentry Dietz and Kickeye McElroy. Dietz comes from Southern Illinois, while McElroy transferred from a junior college after playing her senior year of high school at Columbus Africentric in Columbus, Ohio—the same school that produced Northwest guard Lance Sullivan.

Steinmeyer also has a point guard from Creighton who is expected to commit by week's end.

Those players are joined by high school commitments: guard Melanie Barnes, guard Shelly Martin and forward Tara Roach—the sister of Northwest defensive tackle Tyler Roach. Roach and Martin come from Nebraska, while Barnes hails from Plattsburgh.

Steinmeyer said he must stick with the formula. After that tourn-

NW TENNIS

Vucenov earns top conference honor

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

Northwest women's tennis player Kristina Vucenov notched another honor on her already impressive resume this week.

It wasn't another national tournament berth, instead, the MIAA named her Player of the Week. Vucenov went undefeated in singles play and 3-1 in doubles action during all of these growing pains.

"She's [Vucenov] really coming along now," coach Mark Rosewell said. "She had a great win against [Zuzanna Osinska]. She's getting a lot of confidence right now."

Vucenov, a NAIA All-American and Division II national tournament qualifier, needed three sets against Northeastern's (Okla.) Osinska. Osinska claimed the first set 6-4, but Vucenov rattled off victories of 6-4 and 6-1 in the final two sets.

Osinska reached the national tournament with Vucenov during the fall season.

"I really needed that," Vucenov said. "That's helped build confidence for the rest of the season."

The tournament improved Northwest's record against regional opponents to 10-2.

"We started the year with only our top of the order hitting," coach Ryan Anderson said. "But now we've become somewhat balanced and everyone's contributing. That's something we have to have."

The men, ranked No. 33 nationally, went 3-2 last week, including a win against No. 35 Midwestern State.

"It's been tough for both teams with the elements," Rosewell said. "There is a big difference with having no wind indoors. We're still adjusting to it."

Vigil Sehgal leads the men with a 13-4 record, while Giovanni Auricchio owns an 11-4 record. Jake Saulsbury leads the team with 11 doubles victories.

"Jake is doing a good job," Rosewell said. "He's moved up from last year. Every time he plays, he's an overachiever. That's about all you can do when playing a match. He's doing a great job."

The men and women return to action at 3 p.m., Saturday, against Minnesota State, Mankato, at home, before squaring off against Truman State at 1 p.m., Sunday, at home.

Results of Wednesday's Truman State game were

not available as of press time.

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BEARCATS

NW SOFTBALL

Tourney provides regional insight

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

The Northwest softball team squared off against five regional opponents at last weekend's University of Nebraska-Omaha Classic. The Bearcats went 4-1 against teams battling for the region's top eight spots, and they cemented themselves as a solid regional tournament threat.

"(Last) weekend, we played lights out," infielder Kaitlin Ballard said. "It was a total team effort. It was just good to see."

Northwest, ranked No. 5 regionally, lost the tournament's opener to the region's No. 1 ranked team, Southwest Minnesota State. The 'Cats fell behind 7-2 after three innings, but rallied with six runs in the next three innings to tie the score at eight.

Southwest Minnesota State knocked in two runs off three hits in the bottom of the sixth inning to reclaim the lead and eventually win 10-8.

Northwest then rattled off four consecutive victories, including a 9-7 triumph against No. 23 nationally ranked Minnesota State, and a 4-1 win against No. 9 regionally ranked South Dakota.

"The last four games we really came together as a team," outfielder Megan Simpson said. "We had been consistent all year with our bats, but it's our defense that's hurt us. But we played better defensively in those last four games."

Against Minnesota State, Northwest utilized a three-run first inning to grab an early lead. Erin Leslie led off with a single, and scored when Cortney Channell doubled to centerfield. The next batter, Simpson, doubled to center and brought home Channell. Simpson later scored via a passed ball.

The 'Cats tacked on five more runs during the next three innings to outlast Minnesota State's late six-run rally in the final three innings.

"Our hitting is way up from last year," Ballard said. "We'll always have rough patches, but when we've gotten people on this year, we're bringing them in right now, our one through nine [batters] are producing."

Kelly Morris and Kelsey Resa manufactured strong pitching performances against South Dakota. Morris and Resa allowed one earned run during seven innings. They combined for seven strikeouts and allowed four hits.

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SPOOFHOUNDS

MHS SOCCER

"This team's greatest asset is their attitude. You can have players with great talent but with poor attitudes and still lose... We have a lot of talent and great attitude so if we keep that up we will go far."

Boyo Oludaja,
Head coach



SPOOFHOUND FRESHMAN AMY VandeVen attempts to split two LeBlond defenders during the 'Hounds' 2-1 victory. VandeVen scored both goals for her squad in the victory. The 'Hounds' continued their success by beating Auburn (Neb.) 8-0.

Blanchard leads high-powered squad

By Brian Bosiljevac
Missouriian Reporter

on goal.

Barnett, Elizabeth Schieber, and Ali Ackman added a goal apiece.

After starting off the season with a loss, the Maryville High School soccer team has battled back, winning two in a row.

In its first game against Lafayette, the girls were nervous, "coach Boyo Oludaja said. "It was very good to see them lose those nerves by the LeBlond game and we seem to be on a roll now."

"She [Blanchard] is very talented. There's no doubt about that," Oludaja said. "We just need to get her to see that. Late has been holding back, deciding to give the ball off to others, which is a good thing too. But hopefully tonight (Tuesday) gave her confidence and showed her how well she can shoot."

Along with Blanchard, Malorie

it hard for relay teams to practice handoffs.

"Practicing indoors makes it tough for [relay] teams to work on handoffs because it is so much smaller indoors," senior Jordan Cadibus said.

The 'Hounds looked strong at the Cameron time trials, though the time trials did not count as an official meet.

The girls' team will compete in its first meet Friday at Chillicothe.

The boys' team ran its first meet last Friday at Graceland University. The 'Hounds' handily took first place overall.

Maryville runners placed first

in the 800-meter and 1600-meter relays. Coach Chris Holt said the relay teams might be able to take a few spots in Class 3.

"State is tough, we are the smallest school in Class 3, and we run into a lot of speed competing against the city schools," Holt said.

Junior long jumper John Farmer showed great promise to reach state again this season. Farmer already reached 21 feet in the season's first meet. His longest jump of last season was only two inches farther at 21 feet-and-2 inches.

The boys' team will also be competing Friday at Chillicothe.

"We've had tons of injuries, but hopefully, we can all be healthy by Friday for our first meet," Maryville girls coach Grant Hageman said.

Many of the runners suffer mainly from shin splints, making

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a slam dunk EVENT

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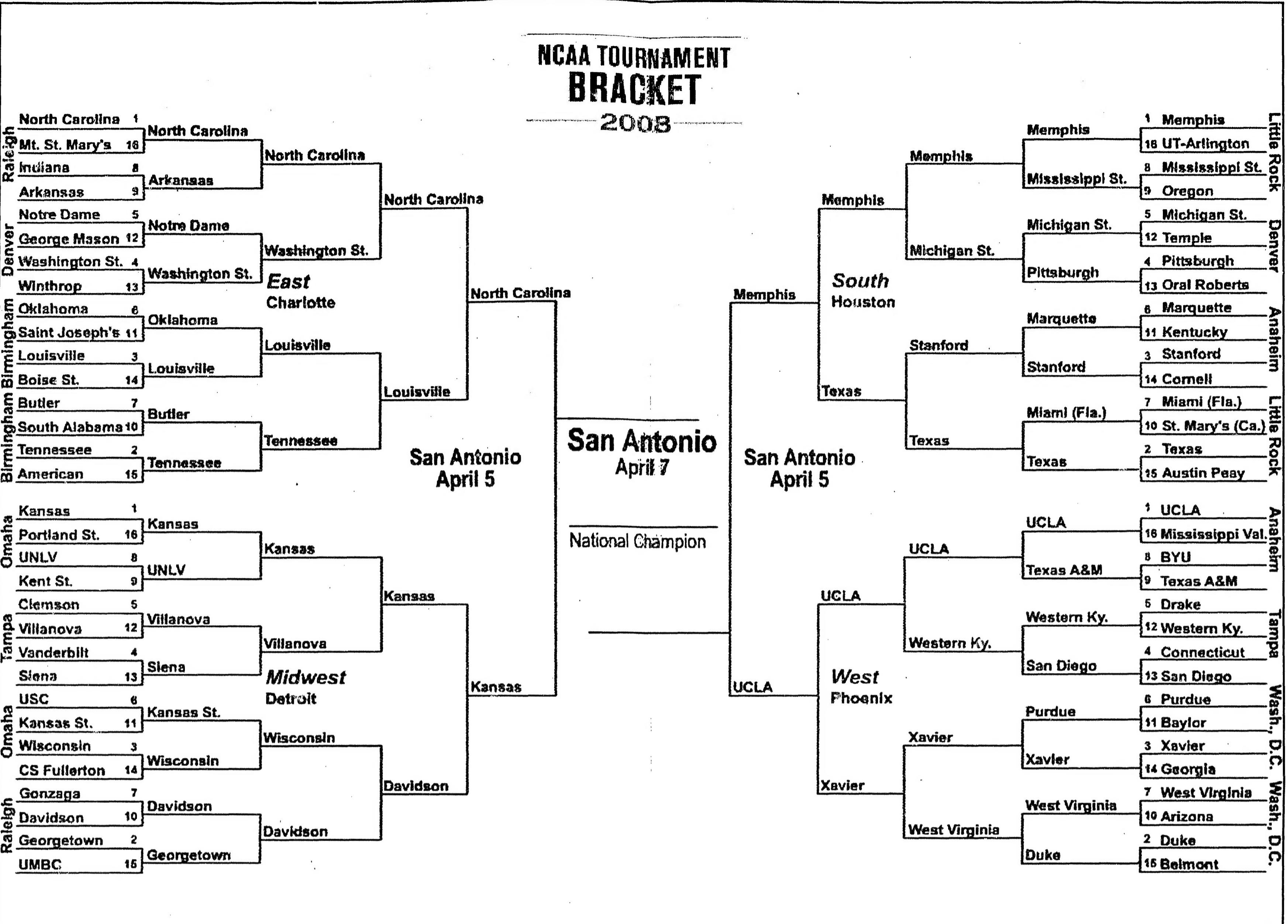
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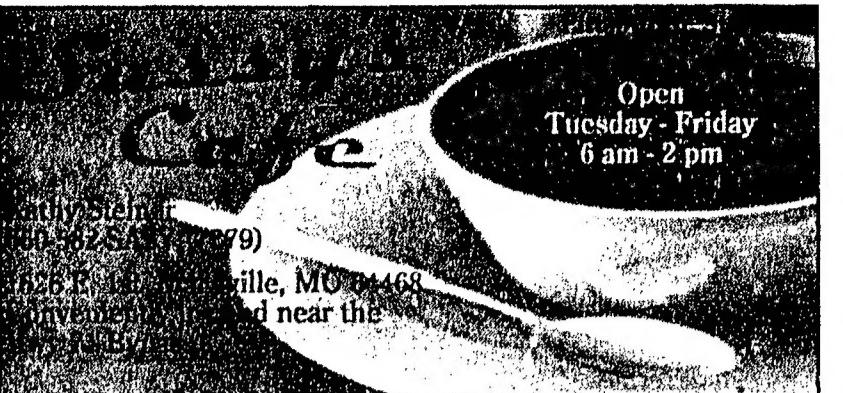
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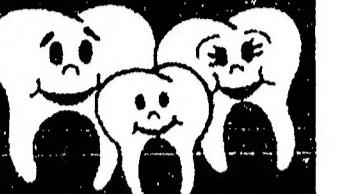


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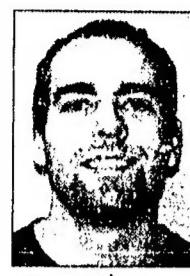
THE EXTRA POINT

Editor struggles with Kansas City's new identity

This is very strange. Nearly every prediction I've read involving my once-beautiful Kansas City Royals has not included usual phrases such as "100 losses" or "alarming lack of talent."

Instead, pundits are complimentary of the team they used to ignore or mock incessantly.

Frankly, I don't know how



Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

to deal with it.

I'm so used to dealing with obligatory insults and providing rebuttals that I'm at a loss for words when someone says the Royals might actually do OK this season.

For the first time since that lucky season of 2003, the Royals' play on the field may actually be due to the talking for me. It's a good thing too, because even the most well-researched insults at Cardinals or White Sox fans have little relevance when Kansas City consistently finishes beneath them.

Realistically, this is the team's biggest transition year in its rebuilding process.

Last season, most of the key players were in their first years with the club, and helped it earn seven more victories than in 2006. 2008 will decide if this nucleus is the one that leads Kansas City back to prominence or if Dayton Moore's handy-work is simply another patch job.

Since last season marked the first real progress in five years, I'm on board Moore's train to prominence and despite the temporary confusion with the team's identity, I'm obviously stoked to see how these Royals will progress in year two of the new regime.

First off, there is a new manager. I don't know a whole lot about Trey Hillman beyond him managing in Japan for most

of this decade, but I do know he isn't Buddy Bell. Bell and his 100 lineups are now somewhere in the White Sox organization, inflicting misery at lower levels. I'll miss Buddy about as much as I miss the No Limit Soldiers.

The man was obsessed with "gritty" veterans and gave them exorbitant playing time over the young guys who needed those starts.

While I am in the dark on Hillman and am not sold on some of the moves, I am very pleased about the departures.

No longer in blue are Scott Elarton, Jason LaRue, Odalis Perez or every Royals fan's favorite whipping boy, Eric Brown. Four unproductive veterans who epitomized the Royals' previous identity.

LaRue and Elarton, according to batting average and ERA, had the worst seasons in team history last year, but were inexplicably given numerous opportunities. Buddy's affinity for these men drove me insane, and I'm glad that surreal chapter is over.

As for the holdovers and newcomers, I'll break this down for you.

Infield

One of the final bastions of "Buddyball," Ross Gload, remains at first base. I have nothing against this man personally, but he does nothing for me. He's a "gritty" player who will steal at-bats from players who will be around in 2009.

At second is another Bell favorite, Mark Grudzielanek. He is very old and like Gload, will not start in '08. Despite his physical resemblance to Northwest baseball coach, Darin Lee, Grudz doesn't really have any standout qualities.

Tony Pena Jr. somehow retained the

shortstop position (probably due to the lack of any competent shortstop throughout the entire organization).

Cioci, Grudz, Pena all starting OK now — I miss a little depressed.

I was one of the many who called for the demotion third baseman Alex Gordon last year. The man was hitting .185 in June. But, he pulled it together to hit over .300 the rest of the way. He's got the best batting on the team and hopefully bat third this year doesn't induce another awful start.

Kansas City did sign a. Buddy-type player (Brett Tomko) and is apparently intent on losing a few blowouts this April. Won't be around long. I'm setting the over/under at May 10 on him leaving the rotation suffering a mysterious "injury." This is a classic battle between defense and offense.

Sunday

■ Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 7:05 p.m., ESPN — This week in TV really can't get much better. First, the Sox on Friday, now national TV.

Days rating (5 of 5)

WHAT TO WATCH?

Scott's TV Picks

Friday

■ Chicago White Sox at Detroit, noon WGN — I know where I'll be at this time Friday. The great station located in Chicago shows the Sox once in a millennium, so this is a must-watch.



Days rating (5 of 5)

Saturday

■ Memphis vs. UCLA, 5:07 p.m., CBS — I'm not too interested in the Roy vs. Bill game, so I'll watch this one more intently. The Tigers may be the most talented, but UCLA is probably the best coached team. This is a classic battle between defense and offense.



Days rating (5 of 5)

Sunday

■ Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 7:05 p.m., ESPN — This week in TV really can't get much better. First, the Sox on Friday, now national TV.



Days rating (5 of 5)

Marc's TV Picks

Friday

■ Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead, 8 a.m. HBO — This classic of American cinema will make us fall in love with Christina Applegate all over again.



Days rating (2 of 5)

Saturday

■ World Figure Skating Championships, 4:30 p.m. ESPN — I'm going to watch what ESPN does not want me to watch. Take that Final Four.



Days rating (5 of 5)

Sunday

■ Houston at Chicago Cubs, 1:20 p.m. WGN — It's baseball time. My favorite station with my one of my least favorite broadcasting teams will showcase the greatest team to not win a championship in the last 100 years. Go Cubbies



Days rating (4 of 5)

Sam's TV Picks

Friday

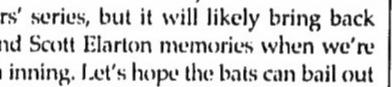
■ Almost Famous, 9 a.m. TBS — Great film about directed by Cameron Crowe (who also did Jerry Maguire and Singles). Crowe drills another time period here in following a 15-year-old aspiring critic as he tours with the fictitious band, Stillwater across the country.



Days rating (3 of 5)

Saturday

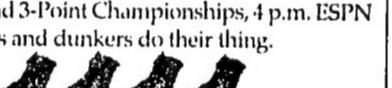
■ Kansas City at Minnesota, 6:10 p.m. MLB.TV — If you read above, you'll see my feelings on Brett Tomko. The man makes his first start as a Royal. It'll be hard to adjust to because we actually won the "Tigers" series, but it will likely bring back painful Odalis Perez and Scott Elarton memories when we're down five in the fourth inning. Let's hope the bats can bail out Tomko's ineptitude.



Days rating (4 of 5)

Sunday

■ NCAA Slam Dunk and 3-Point Championships, 4 p.m. ESPN — Watch great shooters and dunkers do their thing.



Days rating (4 of 5)

Brett's TV Picks

Friday

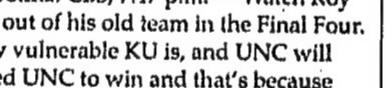
■ Kansas City at Minnesota, FSN, 7:10 p.m. — John Bale on Scott Baker. Royals could potentially sweep this series from the new-loop Twinkies.



Days rating (4 of 5)

Saturday

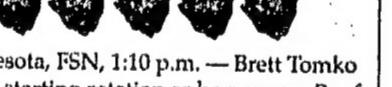
■ Kansas vs. North Carolina, CBS, 7:47 p.m. — Watch Roy Williams beat the snot out of his old team in the Final Four. Davidson showed how vulnerable KU is, and UNC will expose that. Plus, I need UNC to win and that's because more than a rooting interest



Days rating (5 of 5)

Sunday

■ Kansas City at Minnesota, FSN, 1:10 p.m. — Brett Tomko makes his debut in the starting rotation as he opposes Boof Bonser — the greatest name in Major League Baseball



Days rating (4 of 5)

NCAA Final Four

Memphis vs. UCLA — Memphis

It looks like I'm the underdog of this bunch. I'm not sold on UCLA. Memphis really. But, until last round, UCLA was a little lazy so I give the edge to a team that can't make a free throw.



Days rating (4 of 5)

NCAA National Championship

Kansas vs. North Carolina — Memphis

Well I couldn't pick Kansas. The Jayhawks were my original pick, and like the immortal Skip Bayless, I will stand by. Of course, if the Tigers are to pull the upset, I will answer to this pick, which Bayless wouldn't do.



Days rating (5 of 5)

NCAA Final Four MVP

Derrick Rose

In this sports world obsessed with stars, Derrick Rose is a serious chip on their shoulder. Don't underestimate the chip.



Days rating (4 of 5)

NCAA Final Four MVP

Tyler Hansbrough

In this sports world obsessed with stars, Hansbrough can score six and 10 and manage to attain MVP honors.



Days rating (4 of 5)

NCAA Final Four

Memphis vs. UCLA — Memphis

It looks like I'm the underdog of this bunch. I'm not sold on UCLA. Memphis really. But, until last round, UCLA was a little lazy so I give the edge to a team that can't make a free throw.



Days rating (4 of 5)

Screen Printing

* SCREEN PRINTING

* EMBROIDERY

* TEAM UNIFORMS

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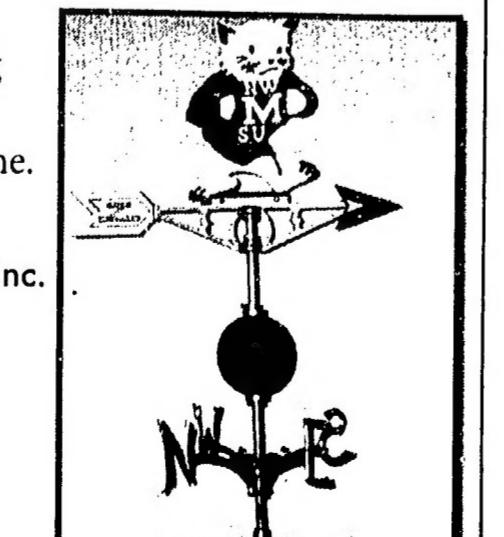
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AT YOUR LEISURE

TOP PICKS

Top 4 picks of the week

By Sydney Moore
Features Reporter

Hitting theaters this week —

"Leatherheads" — a romantic comedy starring George Clooney ("Michael Clayton"), John Krasinski (TV's "The Office") and Renée Zellweger ("Bridget Jones' Diary") hits theaters everywhere this Friday. Set in the 1920s, Dodge Connally (Clooney) is a pro-football player who is determined to get his team back on track. In order to help do so, Connally convinces a college football star, Carter Rutherford (Krasinski), to join his team. The new star seems almost too perfect and journalist Lexie Littleton (Zellweger) agrees. As Littleton tries to find the real story of Rutherford, he and Connally become rivals off the field as well, trying to win Littleton's affection.

Recovering Campus support Scam to help sexual abuse victims

By Whitney Keyes
Features Editor

She was 13 when it happened. By the time she went to college, she started remembering her past. Started to remember everything she had blocked out, everything she had forgotten.

Much of her childhood, growing up in Illinois came back to her, a flood of painful memories. The memories of sexual abuse as a child and rape at the tender age of 13.

Northwest Associate Professor Lauren Leach-Steffens is a sexual abuse and rape survivor and after years of therapy is open about her experiences.

"It's important for me to talk about it, because it's important to know you can come out on the other side," she said. "It doesn't mark you for life. It's not a scarlet letter."

Though she's open with her story, Leach-Steffens tries to focus more on the recovery than the incidents themselves. All she'll say is that it wasn't close family who victimized her, making sure to say that her father is one of her biggest supporters.

Leach-Steffens was "very gregarious but awkward," she said, describing herself as a child who trusted easily and was bullied often.

That combination is a common personality pedophiles look for, she said.

"Pedophiles target children that they gain their trust. And once you become a child victim, it's easy to become a victim again," Leach-Steffens said.

Throughout her years of abuse, she forgot much of it. When she was raped at 13, it brought an end to the abuse.

Now, 22 years later, she can look back on her recovery and realize she's a stronger person because of the work she's done.

Her journey to recovery began when she went away to University of Illinois, two and a half hours away from her small hometown. She hadn't dated in high school, but started to in college. But the new relationships triggered what Leach-Steffens calls "full-fledged post traumatic stress disorder."

It started to interfere with her class work, as she was

standing. It was during college that Leach-Steffens came to terms with the fact that she was a victim of sexual abuse and rape. Until this point of her life, she'd developed "very efficient forgetting systems."

At 21, she finally told her parents what happened to her as a child. Though her father believed her immediately, her mother initially doubted her daughter.

"A mother doesn't want to believe she hasn't protected her kid," Leach-Steffens said.

After finishing her degrees, Leach-Steffens went on to teach, and throughout the years continued recovering. She saw four different therapists, each one helping through a different approach.

Now, she wants to share her story of recovery and help other young adults struggling with similar issues.

"I'm not a victim anymore," she said. As seen in Leach-Steffens' case, her years in college played a huge role in helping her deal with her traumatic past. Though current programs in place are different and more diverse than those offered during her years as a student, the concept is still the same.

Two years ago, Northwest started The Lighthouse Project, a "program to reduce violent crime against women on campus." The program was funded by a two-year grant through the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. The funding, an estimated \$200,000, allowed for a project director and assistant director who dedicated their time to raising awareness on campus, counseling students and providing support however they can.

The staff was in charge of planning events such as the Clothesline Project, Denim Day and the White Ribbon



photo by jenn clark / cse photograph

AS A SURVIVOR of sexual assault and rape, Northwest Associate Professor Lauren Leach-Steffens found help and comfort during college through various support systems.

University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg was also denied the grant. They implemented The Lighthouse Project the same year as Northwest, after receiving the same grant. Shifler said the reasons for the denial of the grant was that the DOJ is attempting to branch out in their grants, by targeting schools of "problem areas."

Northwest has reapplied for the grant and will find out in the fall if it has been approved. No matter what, they are determined to be a resource for students struggling with issues of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking.

"You're going to go through a lot of feelings and a lot of stages," Leach-Steffens said.

For a survivor who recovered during college, Leach-Steffens understands the importance of supporting groups such as The Lighthouse Project. It's a long and tough road, but in the end is worth it.

"It becomes just another thing that happened to you, it has no more weight than anything else," she said. "Going through the work will make you stronger and happier."

bon Campaign, which aims to increase understanding in males. In addition to events such as these, they also provide education at events such as Bobbypalooza.

When the grant was nearing its completion, the staff reapplied for the same grant. However, the grant was denied and the staff for The Lighthouse Project was let go on Dec. 31.

"We're not doing nearly as much as I'd like to," said Health Services Operations Coordinator Vince Shifler. Now, the program has "morphed" into the Wellness Center, and the staff is still trying to hold the same events as before.

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